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THE

RULES

OF AN

ASSOCIATION

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY  
UNITARIAN COLLECTION

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE

*WIDOWS AND ORPHANS*

OF

PROTESTANT DISSENTING MINISTERS,

AND

FOR THE RELIEF OF

*THE MINISTERS THEMSELVES*

WHEN INCAPACITATED BY AGE OR INFIRMITIES FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

AND ALSO

FOR THE RELIEF OF

*INDIGENT MINISTERS*

MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

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MANCHESTER :

PRINTED BY M. FALKNER AND CO. MARKET-PLACE.

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Manchester, June 1, 1792.

## R U L E S, &c.

### CHAP. I.

*Method of raising and supporting a FUND for the  
said purposes.*

I. THIS fund shall be raised and supported by  
SUBSCRIPTIONS and BENEFACTIONS.

II. Annual subscriptions shall be paid according to the following rates, viz. One guinea and a half, two guineas, two guineas and a half, and three guineas.

III. No Minister shall be admitted into the Association on a higher rate than shall be agreeable to the majority of the subscribers and benefactors, at a general meeting.

IV. A Minister, chusing to advance his rate, may be admitted so to do, if it be approved by the majority as before; but, with regard to his advanced subscription, he shall be considered as a new subscriber, subject to the regulations in CHAPTER 3, SECTION 3.

V. The subscriptions shall be due and payable to the treasurer at every annual meeting, in advance for the year to come; who is also to receive all benefactions, legacies, and collections.

## CHAP. II.

*The Rules of ADMISSION into this Society.*

I. IF any Minister within the counties of LANCASTER and CHESTER shall omit joining this Association at his entrance on the ministry in any fixed place, but shall within four years propose himself; in such a case he shall *have a right* to be admitted, upon paying a sum of money, with interest, equal to what he would have paid, had he immediately joined the Association; or to become a subscriber from the time of proposing himself: and any other minister in these or any other counties *may be* admitted by a majority of two thirds of the subscribers.

II. Any Minister who is a subscriber to the fund, and any person who gives five guineas, or subscribes one guinea annually, may be admitted into any offices of the society, and have a vote at the general meetings.

III. Congregations chusing to be interested in this Association; and paying a sum annually equal to any of the rates before-mentioned, in CHAP. I. SEC. 2. shall have the liberty of chusing a REPRESENTATIVE capable of attending and giving a vote at the general meetings, and of being chosen into any office relative to the fund; and such advantages shall thereby be obtained to their present and succeeding ministers and their families, as the state of the fund will admit.



*The PURPOSES to which the fund is to be applied.*

I. **T**O defray the expence of carrying the scheme into execution.

II. To raise a Capital Stock to be lent out on Government or other good security, the interest of which, together with all sums received, shall be applied to the purposes of the Association.

III. To pay Annuities to the Widows of such Ministers as shall have been subscribers four years, and less than twenty years, in proportion to the rates paid by their husbands, viz. for one guinea and a half, six pounds; for two guineas, eight pounds; for two guineas and a half, ten pounds; and for three guineas, twelve pounds *per annum*, during widow-hood: the annuities to commence from any of the quarter-days next ensuing, after the decease of their husbands, viz. *March 25th, June 24th, September 29th, and December 25th*; and what is due shall be paid the first 24th of *June* that shall happen, one full quarter after the death of their husbands: the annuity to cease the next quarter-day ensuing after the marriage or death, of the said widows. But, if any minister die before the expiration of four years, after his entering into this society, his widow shall continue his rate of subscription until the four years be expired, in order to be entitled to her annuity. Nevertheless, all arrears, and a sum that will make the subscriptions which have been paid, equal to four years annuity, shall be deducted (that is, a sum, which with the

the subscriptions that have been paid, shall amount to twenty-four pounds, thirty-two pounds, forty pounds, or forty-eight pounds, according to the rate of subscription) never deducting more than half the annuity in any one year.

iv. To pay Annuities to Ministers, when incapacitated for public service by age or infirmities, equal to what their widows would have received at the time when such incapacity began. This incapacity shall be certified under the hands of two neighbouring ministers, and shall have continued six months before such claim can be made : and the annuities shall be paid during the continuance of such incapacity, without diminishing the future claims of the widows and children of such incapacitated ministers.

v. The annuities of the widows of such ministers as shall have subscribed twenty years, and of the ministers themselves when incapacitated for public service by age and infirmities, shall be *increased*, for every year during which subscriptions shall have been paid after that term, in the proportion of one shilling in the pound upon the annuities mentioned in SECTION 3. of this CHAPTER. And the following instance shall be considered as explaining the sense in which this law is to be understood. viz.

If a minister who has been a subscriber upon the *lowest rate* shall die, after he has paid his twentieth and before he has paid his twenty-first subscription, his widow shall be entitled to an annuity of six pounds, six shillings : If he shall die after he has paid his twenty-first, and before that he has paid his twenty-second subscription, her annuity shall be six pounds twelve shillings : If he he shall die after

after his twenty-second, and before his twenty-third subscription, it shall be six pounds eighteen shillings &c. : This annuity shall continue to increase in the same proportion of six shillings for every year in which the subscription shall have been paid above twenty years : This law shall apply equally to every rate of subscription, as well as to the annuities of incapacitated ministers : And this principle of increase shall extend to every year above twenty, during which the subscriptions shall have been paid, without limitation ; but it shall not affect the portions of children.

VI. Nevertheless, in order to secure the payment of the equitable demands which are founded upon the Original Constitution of this Association,\* (see the former editions of these rules) All claims which may hereafter be made in consequence of the fourth and fifth SECTIONS of this CHAP. (by incapacitated ministers, and the widows of such ministers as shall have subscribed more than twenty years) or in consequence of any future resolution, shall only be valid so long as the WHOLE CAPITAL of this fund, including the subscriptions and benefactions, shall amount to TWO THOUSAND pounds.

VII. If a minister leave no widow, but a child, or children, he, she, or they, shall be entitled to 60, 80, 100, and 120 pounds respectively, according to the rate of their father's subscription, payable at the first general meeting, which shall happen one full year after the father's death, under the restrictions of the 3d ARTICLE ; which sum, if there be more children

\* N. B. The Original Constitution here referred to, respects chiefly the annuities to widows, and the portions to children, contained in the 3d SECTION of this CHAPTER—The claims of Incapacitated Ministers, and the annuities of their families, are regulated by the 4th and 5th SECTIONS of the same.

children than one, shall be equally divided among them : It shall however be in the power of any subscriber, to limit his interest in the fund to any one or more of his children, provided he do it in his last will and testament.

VIII. If a widow marry or die before the elapse of ten years from the commencement of her annuity, a sum of money shall be paid, at the first general meeting that shall happen one full year after her marriage or death, to her late husband's child or children, which, together with what she had received, shall amount to the sums before mentioned in the 7th SECTION of this CHAPTER, subject to the restrictions of the 3d ARTICLE of this CHAPTER: and in case the children be under the age of twenty-one years, the sum they are hereby entitled to, shall be paid into the hands of two persons chosen by the society, who shall be thought most likely to dispose of it to the greatest advantage of the children.

IX. Any members of the society may limit their demands on the society to their widows only, by giving up their claims on behalf of their children, according to a calculation previously made by the committee.

X. The day of a minister's death shall be notified under the hands of two of the subscribers, or two protestant dissenting ministers, to the Secretary or Treasurer of the fund, within one month after his decease; in which case, his widow's annuity shall commence at the first quarter-day after his decease; if this be neglected, it shall commence the first quarter-day after the notification: Her widowhood shall also yearly, in the month of *June*, before the general meeting, be notified in like manner: The same shall be done in the case of children who



XI. If by any means this Association should be dissolved, and any surplus remain after the annuities and portions then becoming due are paid, a majority of all the members of the society present at a general meeting, to be called by the Trustees for that purpose, are impowered to apply it to such uses as they judge most just and charitable.

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# C H A P. IV.

*The REGULATIONS to be observed in the Management of the Fund.*

I. **T**HAT if any person, who has been elected a member of this fund, shall neglect to pay his first subscription within one month after his election, provided proper notice has been given him, his election shall be void.

II. That subscribers neglecting to pay their rates for three years together, with the interest for all sums in arrear, immediately on the neglect of the third payment shall forfeit all their former subscriptions, and all future claim upon the fund, provided written notice has been sent from the Secretary at least one month before the expiration of the third year; but shall still be capable of receiving benefactions from the fund. If they die before such forfeiture shall be incurred, all arrears, with interest, shall be deducted out of their widows' annuities or children's portions.

III. That the sentiments of the subscribers and benefactors on all occasions of voting be taken by ballot, and that the majority determine in all cases, unless where the contrary is particularly specified.

IV. That a President, Vice-president, and Secretary, (who shall also be the Treasurer) be chosen every year by the subscribers and benefactors, at their general meeting; at which time a Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, and nine subscribers or benefactors, be chosen to transact business, during the intervals of the general meetings, who may be called together at the discretion of the President, five of whom shall have power to act.

V. That the Treasurer on no occasion pay money, or place it out at interest, without a written order signed by four of the committee.

VI. That five Trustees be chosen by a general meeting, to whom all securities shall be made in trust for the uses of the fund; and that when the Trustees shall be reduced to three or under, new Trustees shall be added.

VII. That the President lay before the subscribers at every general meeting, the consultations and transactions of the committee relative to the fund.

VIII. That the Treasurer lay his books and accounts before the subscribers at every general meeting; and make a report of the state of the fund at least every three years, which shall be sent to every subscriber and benefactor.

IX. That new regulations may be made at any general meeting; provided, that every proposed regulation be agreed upon by a majority at the general meeting when it is proposed, and be confirmed by two-thirds at the next meeting: provided also, that

that the annuities payable to widows actually on the fund, and portions then becoming due to children, be liable to no diminution.

ix. That a vote by proxy shall be admitted, if the absent member so voting shall signify in writing to the society, whom he hath appointed to vote for him, and in what case.

x. That all payments be made without fee or perquisite.

# COMMITTEE,

CHOSEN, JUNE 17, 1791.

Rev. Mr. HARRISON—President  
 Rev. Mr. YATES—Vice-president  
 Rev. T. BARNES, D. D.—Secretary and Treasurer.  
 Rev. Mr. ASPINALL  
 Rev. Mr. BEALEY  
 Rev. Mr. CHECKLEY  
 Rev. Mr. W. COOPER  
 Rev. Mr. HARROP  
 Rev. Mr. HODGKINSON  
 Rev. Mr. JONES  
 Rev. Mr. POPE  
 Rev. Mr. THRELKELD  
 Rev Mr. TOULMIN



That the annuities payable to widows actually on the fund, and portions thereof becoming due to children, be liable to no diminution.



